

Soviet Trade Fair in Genoa, Italy

21 Mar to 11 Apr 1964

Subject: *TERTERIAN Ina A.

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(Photo attached
at end of
report)

Source: Zed

A/43

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SOURCES/METHODS/EXEMPTION 382B
MAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. Subject is Armenian, born in MOSCOW, aged 31, employed as translator of Spanish at the Institute of Foreign Languages, Dept. of Mezkniga, Moscow; married when she was 22 years old, her husband is Russian, a cinema-critic with good contacts in Eastern Germany; they have one son - Alexander /Sasha/ - born in June 1958. They are very well off, did some travelling abroad. In recent years Subject stayed for 6 months as student of Spanish in Brazil and for 1 week in Paris, France. In May 1964 she planned together with her husband to visit East Germany. She would also like eventually to go to Africa. This continent always fascinated her. She speaks Spanish, Portuguese, some Italian, English and German. She has some distant Jewish relatives.

Physical description: Subject is 5'6, slim but rather strong built, black hairs, thick black eyebrows, grey-green eyes, speaks very quickly. See picture.

2. Subject is a communist with a rather progressive liberal tinge. Communism as such, as concept, is to her absolutely right and commands her full loyalty. It has however, to be properly understood and interpreted and the main thing - ^{it} to be timely adjusted according to requirements of events and environment. Though this might sound un-Marxist, in her view it is in compliance with Marxism-Leninism because the latter let wide enough range to release communism out of doctrinaire dogmatic framework.

Consequently, in the recent literary dispute her sympathy was on the side of NEKRASSOV, TVARDOVSKY, and EVTUSHENKO. Her favorite writer was NEKRASSOV from the very beginning of his publications.

ILICHEV and KOCHETOV - in her opinion - became just a laughing stock of all intelligent people in Moscow. They should not be identified with KHRUSHCHEV who had often been misguided and misinformed by people like ILICHEV. But she believes in common sense of Nikita Sergeevich and his high standing as statesman. Moreover, recent ups and downs did not change her positive attitude to Soviet system but on the contrary increased her faith in it. Things will be getting better and she has no doubt about it.

Actually, one should not rush with changes. Thus, around TVARDOVSKYI and NEKRASOV there were some young "hot heads" who wanted to go at once too far and change too much. This was also wrong.

3. In The Small Soviet Encyclopedia Subject wrote an article about Spanish literature and got for it NR 200.-

Though Armenian by nationality she regarded herself more as a Russian or rather she didn't care about nationality at all. All nationality movements inside the Soviet Union are to her just "bourgeois obsolete traditions" that will be discarded sooner or later. Nations as such will also in time disappear. She could ^{not} understand, for instance, one of her friends, an Osetynian who told her that for nationality reasons he will marry only an Osetynian.

Democracy of Western type - empty words; not for the Soviet peoples. She did not, however, praise Eastern democracy either.

She admitted that the Soviet system has to achieve more freedom for individual and this ^{was} the main problem. More freedom in all spheres of individual life including his morale. Moral laws should be rethought and a new ethic established based on the principle that "everyone should live in such a way as not to make the others unhappy". She went even so far, that when, for instance,

a married woman loves another man she should divorce her husband and marry the new one. The present Soviet system did not solve the problem of ethics completely and she hoped this will be done eventually under communism.

4. Source met Subject on 22 Mar 1964 at the Books Dept where she was employed at the Fair and saw her almost every second day or so. In the beginning she was very reserved though polite but later on became more open and direct. She wanted to see Easter High Mass at St Lorenzo Cathedreal but was prevented at the last moment by some duties at the Exhibition. On 31 Mar 1964 she went to a night club together with Source, Oleg lnu and Nina lnu. Originally she promised to go alone with Source but at the last moment arrived with her friends explaining that her colleagues might talk "funny things" about her when not accompanied by them.

5. Subject knows personally Ivan DRACH, a Ukrainian poet to whom she was introduced recently at a party in Moscow. He impressed her as "a bright boy who was thinking like all young people nowadays with brains and character." As to his poetry it was somewhat like Evtushenko's.

6. Subject exchanged addresses with Source and promised to write first. She will ask him for Spanish books and will reciprocate with Russian ones.

Main Topics Discussed (Excerpts)

23 Mar 1964

1. "Literary discussion". The drive against liberal writers and artists was a mistake of some people around Nikita Sergeevich and therefore fizzled out shortly after official pronouncements. Most writers and artists simply ignored it. For some time TVARDOVSKY and others kept silent but then began to write again as before. EVTUSHENKO did the same. Though some of his recent poems are weaker than the previous ones, he did not give in. Subject admired particularly NEKRASSOV for his writings, courage and unbroken character. "He is a good writer, good character, and good communist! /

2. German Revanchism. All Soviet peoples are afraid of German revanchism. In her view Dr ADENAUER was the most outspoken and dangerous representative of "new German Drang nach Osten". She wondered whether ERHARD will be different. The Soviet Union will never give up Koenigsberg and East Prussia even if it had to fight war for these territories. Germans must reconcile themselves for ever with the complete abandonment of East Prussia. As to newly acquired Polish territories - this ^{is} Warsaw's business. Subject did not think that Warsaw will give her territories back to Germans either.

3. Sino-Soviet Conflict. It's real and serious. She was still puzzled by it. How could Chinese after having received so much help from the Soviet Union be so ungrateful? - she stressed. There will be, however, no war with Chinese. The Soviet Union will never start one and China is much too weak to dare. Subject knew from people who went to China that the Soviet Union had sent to China only the very best equipment and engineers.

25 Mar 1964

1. Foreign translations in the Soviet Union. It is true that there is still a strict selection of what is to be translated and published in Russian of Western literature. But it must be like that for some time to come because the criteria of values in the Soviet Union ~~are~~ different from those in the West. As an example of "Western values" Subject gave strip-tease she had seen in Paris. This kind of cultural value was unacceptable for Soviet individual perhaps even bacause being greatly of peasant's stock he could simply not appreciate it. (Subject herself could, but she was born in Moscow.)

On the whole, the criteria of selection from Western litarature is to-day much wider than it has been at any time in the Soviet Union before. Soon they will publish beside KAFKA, also latest works by SARTRE, and CAMUS, too. JOYCE is being also prepared for publication in Russian. SARTRE comes every year for two months to the Soviet Union and is on excellent terms with A. TVARDOVSKY, ERENBURG and others.

2. Pavel NILIN and Hryhori BAKLANOV - Soviet Writers.

Subject recommended to Source beside NEKRASSOV two other of her favorite writers: NILIN and BAKLANOV. She also gave him two books by NILIN: "Zhestokost" and "Ispytatelnyi Strok". According to Subject, NILIN was severely criticized for his writings in the past and had to wait many years until his books were published. She knows NILIN personally. He was one of the victims of the cultof personality. Subject advised Source to translate eventually into German "Zhestokost!". She mentioned also "Try Povesti" and particularly "P'iad' Zemli" by BAKLANOV.

3. A.TVARDOVSKY. He is the pillar of the liberal progressive wing of writers and artists. His position is very strong and no Kochetov can do anything to him. His magazine is the best in the Soviet Union and everybody including Nikita Sergeevich appreciates it.

Tvardovsky is also well familiar with Ukrainian literature. He translated "Haidamaky" by Shevchenko into Russian.

4. SOLZHENITSYN. His place in Russian literature is assured not only ~~of~~ ^{because} the subject matter of his writings but also because of his style and usage of people's language. "The ~~events~~ ^{is} he writing about do excite us all the time and we feel not only sorry but also ashamed for what has happened during the cult of personality".

5. Foreign Films. Not all foreign films can be shown in the Soviet Union. Subject is against any puritanism but some of French and Italian films have really too much of "naked body". She belongs to those who can see Western films shown to closed audiences. Thus she saw "Jungfrauquelle" and "The Silence" plus many others. She did not approve of some scenes in The Silence and if this film would be demonstrated in the Soviet Union, the public would protest itself against it.

6. Stalin. It was really horrible what they had to experience under ~~a~~ Stalin. Therefore it was also not easy to adjust oneself to the new situation after Stalin's death. In Moscow every intelligent person knows by now that Stalin ~~has~~ been helped in his death by his closest friends.

7. EMIGRATION Ukrainian literature. Subject knew little about it. She knows personally DRACH and heard some of his poems. She also heard about Lina KOSTENKO.

31 Mar 1964

1. "Defector" DOLLBERG. Subject had a Jewish friend by the name DOLLBERG. Some time ago he went to West Germany and remained there. From there he wrote a letter to Subject explaining his decision to live in Germany. Subject wondered how a Jew could find his living among Germans. She did not want to say anything

about Dollberg's explanation.

2. Georgian Literature. Recently - according to Subject - Georgians began again to publish more of their literature.

2 Apr 1964

1. About herself. Owing to her knowledge of languages and her job Subject can read many foreign papers and books. Consequently her attitude to the outside world is different than that of common Soviet citizen. She stressed it with particular pride.

She was also aware of the fact that the Party did sometimes lie to the people - but then added at once hastily - in the past, of course. First time she caught the party lying was in 1952 when she had read about the arrests of Jewish doctors. She did not want to give other examples.

Subject's Department (Foreign Languages Institute) is particularly sensitive to any change of party line. Therefore they have to be always up-to-date and often to "sense" even in advance.

2. Remnants of Stalinism. Such introductions in scientific books as "On order of the wise decision of the CPSU... also" still exist but every intelligent person regards them as obsolete remnants of Stalinism. Some people continue to write this way by inertia, too.

3. Khrushchev. He does not understand many things in literary and artistic field but this was mainly his advisors' fault. But he is a good politician, a practical man, and a great statesman. As such he enjoyed general respect. Above all he is not a dogmatist and "goes with life."

4. Foreigners' appraisal of Soviet individuals. According to Subject all foreigners think of Sovs as stupid low educated individuals who might be

tops in physics and mathematics but underdeveloped in humanistics because they neither are able to think for themselves nor have possibility to read something valuable. Even in Source's expressions she found slight traces of such an attitude. But Western people are completely wrong. Sovs can think for themselves and do read also "Western curiosities and wisdoms". Subject herself read Nietzsche, Schopenhauer, Ortega y Gasset, Freud and others. She did not think however that every Soviet citizen was in need to know what these people have written.

5, Bomb at the Exhibition in Brazil. Two men are sleeping at the premises of the Exhibition in Genoa because in Brazil someone had planted a bomb at night.

TERTERYAN, Inna
Secretary Soviet Embassy Rio de Janeiro
Arrived Rio ~~10 Jan 62~~ 24 Feb 62
DOB 10 Jan 33

RIOD-6783, 1 March 62

010-008-021, HBRA-09423, 11 June 62
Departed Rio for Paris 30 May 62

Sent RI trace 21 May. Copy of report to SR/0/bio
21 May

HBRA-11691
17 Sept 63
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Copy of this agent to [unclear]
Should be filed
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See Dolekay, P.A.

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П Ст №

Photos of
TERTERIAN, Anna A.

